

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224847

TO MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. RE MOSCOW 14256 PARA 3, THE CAB IS STILL WAITING FOR PAN AM TO PROVIDE DATA AND SPECIFIC LANGUAGE DETAILING JUST WHAT PAN AM WOULD ACTUALLY DO TO RESTRICT SALES OF AEROFLOT SERVICES. WHEN THIS INFORMATION IS RECEIVED, THE CAB PLANS TO TAKE OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF THE PAN AM INSTRUCTION WITHDRAWING AUTHORITY FOR DESIGNATED TRAVEL AGENCIES TO SELL AEROFLOT SERVICES. YOU MAY WISH TO CALL SEAWALL'S ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND ADVISE HIM THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BOARD IS READY TO INITIATE ACTION QUICKLY ONCE THIS INFORMATION IS RECEIVED.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD MUCH FAVORABLE COMMENT ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S REFLECTIONS CABLE. IT WILL, I AM CERTAIN, BE A STANDARD WORK WHICH WE WILL BE REFERRING BACK TO AND REFERRING TO HIGH-LEVEL READERS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. I MIGHT ADD THAT ITS THOUGHTFUL AND BASICALLY OPTIMISTIC APPROACH COMES AT A PARTICULARLY USEFUL TIME, SINCE A
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NUMBER OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE GENERATED A FEELING IN

SOME QUARTERS THAT THINGS ARE GOING BADLY IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. DAO PROJECT. WE WILL MEET AGAIN WITH PEOPLE INVOLVED MONDAY MORNING. IN ORDER TO SPELL OUT YOUR VIEWS WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION BY THEN, IF POSSIBLE, OF ONE POINT. IN THE CHARTER OPTION, WE WOULD PACKAGE THE MATERIAL AS 200 POUCHES, EACH BEARING A SEAL. THEY WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY COURIERS. IN TERMS OF HANDLING BY SOVIETS WOULD THERE BE ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE, OTHER THAN THE SCALE OF THE OPERATION, BETWEEN A SERIES OF POUCHES AND A ONE-TIME SHOT? LET ME ALSO SUMMARIZE THE ARGUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE HERE AGAINST THE SERIES-OF-POUCHES OPTION.

FIRST, SOME OF THE ITEMS ARE SO LARGE THAT THEY WOULD NOT GO INTO REGULAR COURIER RUNS OUT OF VIENNA. THUS, AN ARRANGEMENT FOR VERY LARGE COURIER ACCOMPANIED POUCHES DIRECTLY FROM US WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE. AT PRESENT POUCHES ON PAN AM FROM NEW YORK GO TO MOSCOW UNACCOMPANIED, AND THE COURIER PEOPLE ARE RELUCTANT TO USE THESE FLIGHTS FOR ACCOMPANIED POUCHES FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING REGULAR COURIER RUNS. SECONDLY, LOGISTICS AND STAGING WOULD POSE SOME SERIOUS, BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, PROBLEMS HERE, AND WOULD INVOLVE LONG DRAWN-OUT SHIPMENT OF ITEMS AND SERIES OF OPERATIONS INSTEAD OF ONE. IT WOULD BECOME CLEAR WHAT PURPOSE IS AND AND WE ASSUME THAT SOVIETS COULD ALSO DEVISE SOME MEANS TO HARASS OR DELAY, ALONG LINES OF THOSE MENTIONED IN MOSCOW 13987. FOURTH, STORING ITEMS IN ATTIC AS YOU PROPOSE MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF FLOOR-LOAD PROBLEM. (FBO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THIS). AS TO PROBLEMS OF POSSIBLE HARASSMENT OR TAMPERING, PEOPLE HERE TELL US THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO RISK THIS AND WILL HAVE A TECHNICAL TEAM IN RESERVE TO SEND TO MOSCOW TO GO OVER SHIPMENT IN CASE SOVIETS DIVERT OR DELAY IT. THEY STRONGLY PREFER TRYING TO GET EVERYTHING IN AT ONE TIME. THEY UNDERSTAND MORALE PROBLEM AT EMBASSY AND HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR EXPLAINING IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT IS GOING ON. WE WOULD GET YOU SOME CLEARED TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH EMBASSY EMPLOYEES. THEY ALSO SAY THAT SPECULATIVE PRESS STORIES WOULD NOT BOTHER THEM (ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR US). SOME OF THIS COULD BE DEALT WITH BY

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HAVING CHARTER CARGO FLIGHT ARRIVE ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY WHEN SNACK BAR ACTIVITY NOT SO HEAVY. DO WE ASSUME CORRECTLY THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO LOAD ITEMS DIRECTLY INTO PRE-POSITIONED STEEL LIFT VANS WHICH COULD BE WELDED SHUT UNTIL ITEMS USED?

4. OTHER AGENCY PRINCIPAL TOLD MKRTUMOV THIS MORNING THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD A JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION

MEETING ON OCTOBER 20-21. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC EXPERTS GROUP COULD BE HELD JUST PRIOR TO THAT, ON OCTOBER 18-19.

5. SORRY ABOUT SWITCHED SIGNALS REGARDING ONE SUBJECT FOR GROMYKO MEETING. SHORTLY AFTER LAST NIGHT'S O-I WAS DESPATCHED, WE GOT A NEGATIVE INDICATION FROM ON HIGH, HENCE ART'S CABLE. WE HAVE NOT YET THROWN IN THE TOWEL, HOWEVER. KISSINGER

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